

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1 to 20 are currently pending. Claims 1 to 20 are the subject of an election requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121.

Applicant hereby elects embodiment 3, as disclosed in Figure 10, without traverse. However, Applicant believes claim 1 is generic to all embodiments, since all of the embodiments include an input port, a polarization beam splitter, a first lens, a variable polarization rotator, a second lens a polarization beam combiner, and an output port. In the third embodiment, the polarization beam splitter and the polarization beam combiner are made up of different parts of the same birefringent crystal. Similarly, the first lens and the second lens are made up of different parts of the same lens.

Claim 6 is hereby withdrawn, as being drawn to the specific structure of embodiment 2, i.e. including a “retro-reflective element”.

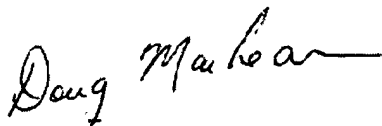
As such, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims remaining in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration would be appreciated.

Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1465 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

**Please associate this application with Customer No: 24949.**

Respectfully,



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